

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 8-20 have been added, leaving Claims 8-20 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Support for new Claims 8-20 can be found throughout the entire specification including the figures and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP 20000268774 to Niimi et al. (hereinafter "Niimi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,880,559 to Fox. This rejection is moot, as Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 have been canceled.

New Claims


Applicant respectfully submits that new claims are novel and non-obvious over the art made of record, and as such are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise,
please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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